

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Thermoplastic composition comprising at least an hypophosphorous acid metal salts as halogen-free flame retardant agent and at least an aromatic polycarbonate resin wherein said hypophosphorous acid metal salt has an average particle size of the powder (d50%) lower than 40 μ m and an highest particle size below 100 μ m.

2. (Previously Presented) Thermoplastic composition according to claim 1, wherein said aromatic polycarbonate resin is blended with a graft copolymer styrenic resin and that the polycarbonate resin/graft copolymer styrenic resin ratio ranges from 60/40 to 90/10.

3. (Currently Amended) Thermoplastic composition according to claim 2, wherein said polycarbonate resin is obtained by reaction of bis(hydroxyphenyl)alkanes, 2,2bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)propane (bisphenolA), bis(4-hydroxyphenyl) methane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethane, hydroquinone, resorcinol, or catecol.

4. (Currently Amended) Thermoplastic composition according to claim 1, wherein said polycarbonate resin is a recycled polycarbonate materials, ~~mixed or in mixture~~ with virgin polycarbonate polymer or ~~[[also]]~~ blended with an impact modifier resin.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) Thermoplastic composition according to claim 2, wherein said graft copolymer styrenic resin are selected from impact resistant polystyrene (HIPS), ABS resins, and MBS resins.

7. (Previously Presented) Thermoplastic composition according to claim 2, wherein said styrenic resin amount ranges from 10% to 40% by weight based on the weight of total resins.

8. (Previously Presented) Thermoplastic composition according to claim 1, wherein said metal is an alkaline metal belonging to the first, second and third main group or second, seventh, eighth subgroup of the periodic table of the elements.

9. (Previously Presented) Thermoplastic composition according to claim 8, wherein said metal is selected from Ca, Ba, Mg, Al, Zn, Fe, and B.

10. (Currently Amended) Thermoplastic composition according to claim 9, wherein said hypophosphorous acid metal salt is ~~Calcium~~calcium hypophosphite and/or ~~Aluminium~~aluminum hypophosphite.

11. (Currently Amended) Thermoplastic composition according to claim 1, wherein said hypophosphorous acid metal salt is present in an amount that ranges from 1% to 30% by weight on the weight of the composition.

12. (Previously Presented) Thermoplastic composition according to claim 1, wherein said hypophosphorous acid metal salt is present in combination with halogen-free organic phosphoric esters.

13. (Previously Presented) Thermoplastic composition according to claim 12, wherein said halogen-free organic phosphoric esters are selected from triphenylphosphate, (TPP), tricresyl phosphate, trixylilenphosphate, resorcinoldiphosphate, resorcinolbis diphenylphosphate, bisphenol A bis diphosphate, trimethylphosphate, tributylphosphate, and trioctylphosphate.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) Thermoplastic composition according to claim ~~[[14]]~~1, wherein said hypophosphorous acid metal salt has a d50% value below 20 μm and an highest particle size below 50 μm .

16. (Previously Presented) Thermoplastic composition according to claim 1, which also comprises additives and/or fillers, said additives being present in an amount ranging from 0.5 to 5% by weight on the weight of the composition, said fillers being present in an amount up to 50% by weight on the weight of the composition.

17. (Previously Presented) Thermoplastic composition according to claim 16, wherein said additives are selected from processing aids, heat and process stabilisers, UV stabilisers, antidripping agents, pigments, lubricants, mould releasing agents, colorants, and plasticizers.

18. (Previously Presented) Thermoplastic composition according to claim 1, which also comprises fluorine-containing ethylene polymers in an amount of up to 2%, based on the weight of thermoplastic composition.

19. (Previously Presented) Thermoplastic composition according to claim 18, wherein said fluorine-containing ethylene are selected from polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) or tetrafluoroethylene-hexafluoropropylene copolymers.

20. (Currently Amended) Thermoplastic composition according to claim 18, wherein said fluorine-containing ethylene ~~are characterized by~~has a particle size of from 0.1 μm to 10 μm .

21. (Previously Presented) Thermoplastic composition according to claim 16, wherein said fillers are selected from carbon fibers, glass fibers, glass beads, amorphous silica, kaolin, chalk, mica, calcinated kaolin, wollastonite, and talc.

22. (Previously Presented) Process for the preparation of a thermoplastic composition according to claim 1, wherein the starting components and the additional components are mixed and kneaded in predetermined ratios, extruded and pelletized.

23. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 22, wherein the ~~kneaded~~kneading temperature is ~~comprised~~ between 240 and 290°C.

24. (Original) Thermoplastic articles obtained using a halogen-free flame retardant composition according to claim 1.